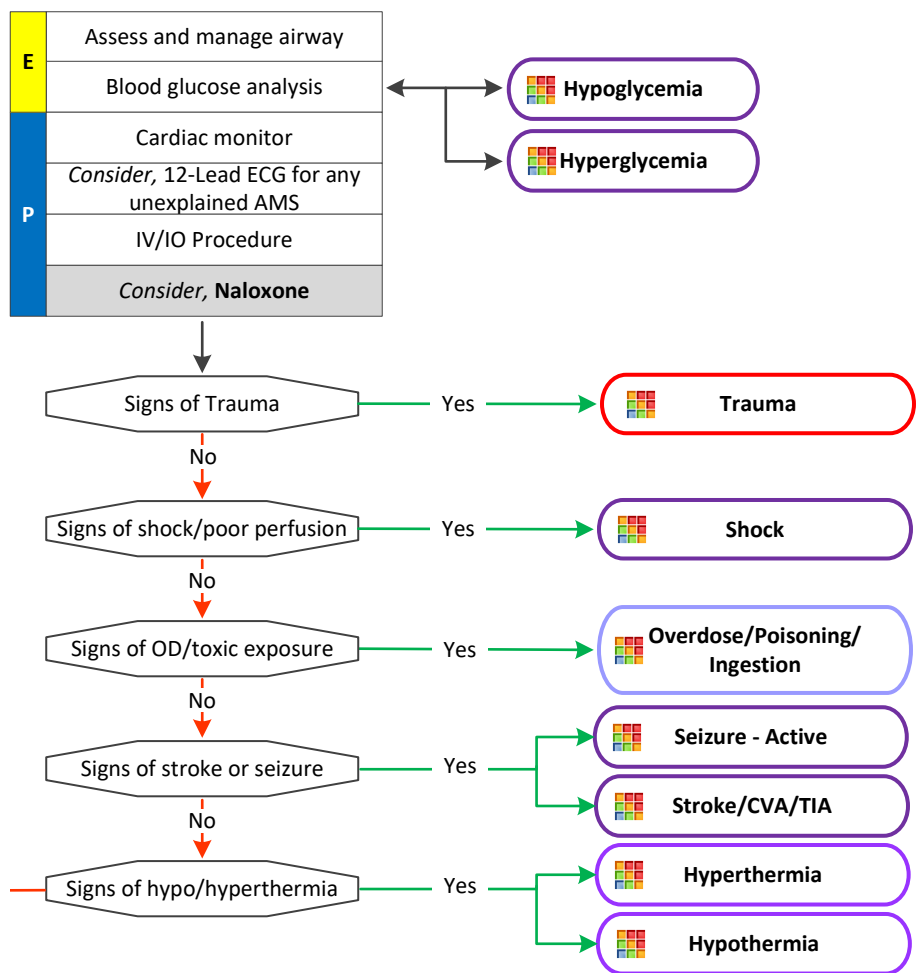


# Pediatric Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC)

For altered mental status not attributed to a more specific primary impression (i.e., cause unknown). Use as secondary primary impression when cause known

<p><b>History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known diabetic or medical alert tag</li> <li>• Suspected or known toxic ingestion</li> <li>• Report of illicit drug use or toxic ingestion</li> <li>• Past medical history</li> <li>• Medications</li> <li>• History of trauma or traumatic brain injury</li> <li>• Change in condition</li> <li>• Changes in feeding or sleep habits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Signs and Symptoms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in baseline mental status</li> <li>• Decrease mental status or lethargy</li> <li>• Bizarre behavior</li> <li>• Hypoglycemia (cool, diaphoretic skin)</li> <li>• Hyperglycemia (warm, dry skin; fruity breath; Kussmaul respirations; signs of dehydration)</li> <li>• Irritability</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head trauma</li> <li>• CNS (stroke, tumor, seizure, infection)</li> <li>• Cardiac (MI, CHF)</li> <li>• Hypothermia</li> <li>• Thyroid</li> <li>• Electrolyte abnormality</li> <li>• Acidosis or alkalosis</li> <li>• Environmental exposure</li> <li>• Infection or sepsis</li> <li>• Overdose or toxicological</li> <li>• Under dose of prescribed medications</li> <li>• Trauma</li> <li>• Insulin or diabetic emergency</li> <li>• Psychiatric disorder</li> <li>• Sepsis or shock</li> </ul>
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**Pearls**

- Be aware of ALOC as a presenting sign of an environmental toxin or hazmat exposure and protect personal safety and that of other responders who may already be exposed.
- Consider restraints if necessary for patient or personnel protection.

Pediatric Medical Treatment Protocols